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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/661,588	09/15/2003	Sven Schreder	MERCK-2168D1	8058
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23599	7590	07/26/2006
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ARLINGTON, VA 22201

EXAMINER

SPIVACK, PHYLLIS G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1614

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief	Application No. 10/661,588	Applicant(s) SCHREDER ET AL.	
	Examiner Phyllis G. Spivack	Art Unit 1614	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 28 March 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☐ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
 (a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
 (c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
 5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
 6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
 7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
 The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
 Claim(s) allowed: _____.
 Claim(s) objected to: _____.
 Claim(s) rejected: 1, 3-6, 9 and 10.
 Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
 9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
 10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☐ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
 12. ☒ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s).
 13. ☒ Other: See Continuation Sheet.


 Phyllis G. Spivack
 Primary Examiner
 Art Unit: 1614
PHYLLIS SPIVACK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Continuation of 13. Other: Applicants' Communication filed March 28, 2006 is acknowledged. Claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 10 remain under consideration.

Another copy of Form 1499 that had been previously submitted is noted. All references were reviewed on August 21, 2005 (copy enclosed) with the exception DE 195 41 128. With the aid of a German translator, the reference has been reviewed and Form 1449 initialed. The non-patent literature document cited on the PTO-1449 form has not been scanned and is unavailable to the Examiner. Another copy of the Derwent reference is requested. For convenience Applicants may FAX this document directly to the Examiner at 571-273-0585. No additional 1449 form is needed.

In the last Office Action claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds et al., U.S. Patent 3,808,332, in view of Israel, GB 1,180,574. It was asserted Reynolds teaches a combination of L-thyroxine and L-triiodothyronine that are physically admixed. No organic solvent residues are present. See column 7, lines 65-67. As required by instant claim 3, Reynolds teaches a concentration range of L-thyroxine of 100-300 mcg. Fillers such as lactose, maize starch and microcrystalline cellulose are conventional excipients. Reynolds fails to include gelatin in the combination. However, Israel teaches the inclusion of gelatin in pharmaceutical preparations comprising thyroxine. Therefore, in view of Israel's teaching the utility of gelatin as a customary excipient in preparations comprising thyroid hormones, one skilled in the art of formulation chemistry would have been motivated to prepare a pharmaceutical formulation comprising as actives, levo-thyroxine and liothyronine, with an excipient such as gelatin and fillers that are known in the prior art. Gelatin is known in the prior art as an emulsifying agent or a binder. Nothing unobvious is seen using gelatin as an emulsifying agent or as a binder in such a pharmaceutical preparation.

Applicants question the rejection of only claim 10 without any other claim included in the rejection.

Only claim 10 is drawn to the combination of triiodothyronine and levothyroxine, as is the reference.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Phyllis G. Spivack whose telephone number is 571-272-0585. The Examiner can normally be reached from 10:30 to 7 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel, can be reached 571-272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 20, 2006